

The paragraph beginning at page 22, line 20 is amended as follows:

At least a portion of the backing **2** is treated with a hydrophobic sizing agent **8** such that the portion of the backing **2** that is treated with the hydrophobic sizing agent **8** has a surface energy of about 20 dynes/cm² to about 65 dynes/cm². Specifically, the portion of the backing **2** that is treated with the hydrophobic sizing agent **8** has a surface energy of about 27 dynes/cm² to about 56 dynes/cm². The hydrophobic sizing agent **8** lowers the surface energy of the portion of the backing **2** that is treated with the hydrophobic sizing agent **8**. Any suitable hydrophobic sizing agent **8** can be employed, provided the portion of the backing **2** that is treated with the hydrophobic sizing agent **8** has a surface energy of about 20 dynes/cm² to about 65 dynes/cm². Suitable hydrophobic sizing agents **8** include, e.g., fluorocarbon solutions, silicone-containing compounds, and combinations thereof. Specifically, the backing **2** can be a non-woven backing **2** that is treated with a fluorocarbon. For example, the fluorocarbon treated backing **2** can be, e.g., VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1585 W/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1585H/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1586 W/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1586 H/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1570, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1573 F, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1573 FH, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1577 F, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1578 F, or VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1578 FH; which are all commercially available from Freudenberg Faservliesstoffe KG (Weinham, Germany). Alternatively, the silicone treated backing **2** can be a non-woven backing **2** that is coated with one or more silicone-containing compounds, e.g., a polydimethyl siloxane, a dialkylsiloxane, a dimethylsiloxo vinyl alkene, a dialkylsiloxo vinyl alkenes, a dimethylsiloxo acrylate, a dialkylsiloxo acrylate, a vinyl terminated polydimethylsiloxane, and a vinyl terminated polydialkylsiloxane.

The paragraph beginning at page 24, line 9 is amended as follows:

Suitable fluorocarbon treated backings **2** include, e.g., VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1585 W/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1585H/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1586 W/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1586 H/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1570, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1573 F, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1573 FH, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1577 F, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1578 F, and VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1578 FH; which are all commercially available from Freudenberg

Faservliesstoffe KG (Weinham, Germany).

The paragraph beginning at page 82, line 1 is amended as follows:

The adhesive patch is produced by mixing the ointment or gel of Example 1 in a mixer, then expelling the ointment or gel in a fluid state from the mixer onto the exposed front surface of a VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1585 W/HY non-woven backing sheet that is pre-treated with a fluorocarbon. The pre-treated non-woven backing sheet is commercially available from Freudenberg Faservliesstoffe KG (Weinham, Germany). The fluid ointment or gel is then spread over the exposed surface of the backing sheet using an appropriate direct coating technique, such as knife-over-roll. The yield rate is greater than the yield rate above employing the backing that is not treated with a sizing agent.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the claim set in the appendix entitled Clean Version of Pending Claims for the previously pending claim set. The substitute claim set is intended to reflect amendment of previously pending claim 10. The specific amendments to claim 10 are detailed in the following marked up set of claims.

10. (Once amended) The adhesive patch of claim 9 wherein the backing that is treated with the fluorocarbon solution is VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1585 W/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1585H/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1586 W/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1586 H/HY, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1570, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1573 F, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1573 FH, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1577 F, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1578 F, VILMED™ [Vilmed] M1578 FH, or a combination thereof.

REMARKS

Claim 10 is amended; as a result, claims 1-89 are now pending in this application.

Claim 10 was amended to mark a name as trademarked. The amendment to claim 10 does not narrow the claim. Accordingly, upon issuance of the pending claims, Applicant is